



Policies and Procedures

Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine

Subject: TREE TRIMMING

1.0 TIDELANDS AREA TREE TRIMMING

1.1 PURPOSE

- 1.1.1 To provide guidelines and procedures for the trimming of any and all trees within the Tidelands area marine environment.

1.2 BACKGROUND

- 1.2.1 The Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine is obligated to trim trees within the marine environment for the safety of the public and the protection of property. In order to provide proper environmental stewardship, this tree trimming must be conducted in an environmentally friendly manner and in compliance with all environmental regulations, including the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and as determined by the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and the California Coastal Commission (CCC). The procedures, delineated below, were established with the cooperation of DFG, the Audubon Society, Council Office, CCC and interested citizens groups.

1.3 POLICY

- 1.3.1 Department policy requires that all tree trimming conducted in or adjacent to the marinas, beaches and other city properties in the Tidelands area adhere to the procedures outlined in this document.

1.4 PROCEDURES

- 1.4.1 No tree trimming may be conducted within 300 feet of any tree containing an active nest or the presence of nesting activity.
- 1.4.2 The presence of active nests or nesting activity shall be determined by a professional ornithologist under contract to the City in concurrence with representatives of the Audubon Society, immediately prior to any trimming.

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1.4.3 Nesting activity is broadly defined as commencing with courtship activity among adults and ending when all fledglings have become juveniles and are able to fly. The nesting period generally falls between January 15 and July 15. As a matter of course, we use January 15 through September 1 as our no trimming period. It must also be noted that juvenile or adult birds occupying a nest do not necessarily constitute nesting activity.

1.4.4 Whenever possible annual tree trimming shall be scheduled between September 1 and January 15.

1.4.5 Trimming of selected trees by hand for the removal of fruit may be conducted during the period from January 15 through September 1. The City will consult with a professional ornithologist and/or the Audubon Society to assure that the Federally required standoff distance is maintained and that adjacent nesting birds are not distressed.

1.4.6 Where possible, trimming shall be conducted in such a way as to avoid damage to existing nests. In those cases where structurally unstable nests or the portion of the tree on which they are located pose an imminent danger to the public, the City may trim to protect the public.

1.5 REVIEW AND REVISION

1.5.1 It is the responsibility of the Manager of Maintenance Operations to review and update this policy and procedure on an annual basis or when City policies or procedures change.

1.6 ATTACHMENTS

- 1.6.1 Tree Trimming Flow Chart
- 1.6.2 Map of vicinity

APPROVED:



PHIL T. HESTER
DIRECTOR

AUTHORIZED ON:

2-6-08

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